



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5124

LCO No. 1424

* _____HB05124AGEPH_030408_____*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Aging

Introduced by:
(AGE)

AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES IN NURSING HOMES AND THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2008*) On and after January 1, 2009, no
2 person shall practice social work as a social work designee unless such
3 person has (1) at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in social work from a
4 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and (2)
5 at least one year of work experience in a health care facility. Any
6 person employed as a social work designee prior to January 1, 2009,
7 shall not be subject to such requirement and shall continue his or her
8 employment without restriction. The Department of Public Health
9 shall amend the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, in
10 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
11 provisions of this section.

12 Sec. 2. (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) Social work service staff shall be
13 employed in chronic and convalescent nursing homes and rest homes
14 with nursing supervision sufficient to meet the needs of the patients
15 but not less than at the following ratio of hours per week to the
16 number of licensed beds in the facility: (1) One to fifteen beds, ten

17 hours per week; (2) sixteen to thirty beds, twenty hours per week; (3)
18 thirty-one to forty-five beds, thirty hours per week; (4) forty-six to sixty
19 beds, forty hours per week; (5) each additional fifteen beds or fraction
20 thereof, ten additional hours.

21 (b) The Department of Public Health shall amend the regulations of
22 Connecticut state agencies, in accordance with chapter 54 of the
23 general statutes, to carry out the provisions of this section.

24 Sec. 3. Section 19a-14c of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

26 (a) For the purposes of this section, "outpatient mental health
27 treatment" means the treatment of mental disorders, emotional
28 problems or maladjustments with the object of (1) removing,
29 modifying or retarding existing symptoms; (2) improving disturbed
30 patterns of behavior; and (3) promoting positive personality growth
31 and development. Treatment shall not include prescribing or
32 otherwise dispensing any medication which is a legend drug as
33 defined in section 20-571 of the 2008 supplement to the general
34 statutes.

35 (b) A psychiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 370, a psychologist
36 licensed pursuant to chapter 383, [an independent] a clinical social
37 worker [certified] licensed pursuant to chapter 383b or a marital and
38 family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a may provide
39 outpatient mental health treatment to a minor without the consent or
40 notification of a parent or guardian at the request of the minor if (1)
41 requiring the consent or notification of a parent or guardian would
42 cause the minor to reject such treatment; (2) the provision of such
43 treatment is clinically indicated; (3) the failure to provide such
44 treatment would be seriously detrimental to the minor's well-being; (4)
45 the minor has knowingly and voluntarily sought such treatment; and
46 (5) in the opinion of the provider of treatment, the minor is mature
47 enough to participate in treatment productively. The provider of such
48 treatment shall document the reasons for any determination made to

49 treat a minor without the consent or notification of a parent or
 50 guardian and shall include such documentation in the minor's clinical
 51 record, along with a written statement signed by the minor stating that
 52 (A) he is voluntarily seeking such treatment; (B) he has discussed with
 53 the provider the possibility of involving his parent or guardian in the
 54 decision to pursue such treatment; (C) he has determined it is not in
 55 his best interest to involve his parent or guardian in such decision; and
 56 (D) he has been given adequate opportunity to ask the provider
 57 questions about the course of his treatment.

58 (c) After the sixth session of outpatient mental health treatment
 59 provided to a minor pursuant to this section, the provider of such
 60 treatment shall notify the minor that the consent, notification or
 61 involvement of a parent or guardian is required to continue treatment,
 62 unless such a requirement would be seriously detrimental to the
 63 minor's well-being. If the provider determines such a requirement
 64 would be seriously detrimental to the minor's well-being, he shall
 65 document such determination in the minor's clinical record, review
 66 such determination every sixth session thereafter and document each
 67 such review. If the provider determines such a requirement would no
 68 longer be seriously detrimental to the minor's well-being, he shall
 69 require the consent, notification or involvement of a parent or
 70 guardian as a condition of continuing treatment. No provider shall
 71 notify a parent or guardian of treatment provided pursuant to this
 72 section or disclose any information concerning such treatment to a
 73 parent or guardian without the consent of the minor.

74 (d) A parent or guardian who is not informed of the provision of
 75 outpatient mental health treatment for his minor child pursuant to this
 76 section shall not be liable for the costs of the treatment provided.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	19a-14c
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AGE*Joint Favorable C/R*

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